

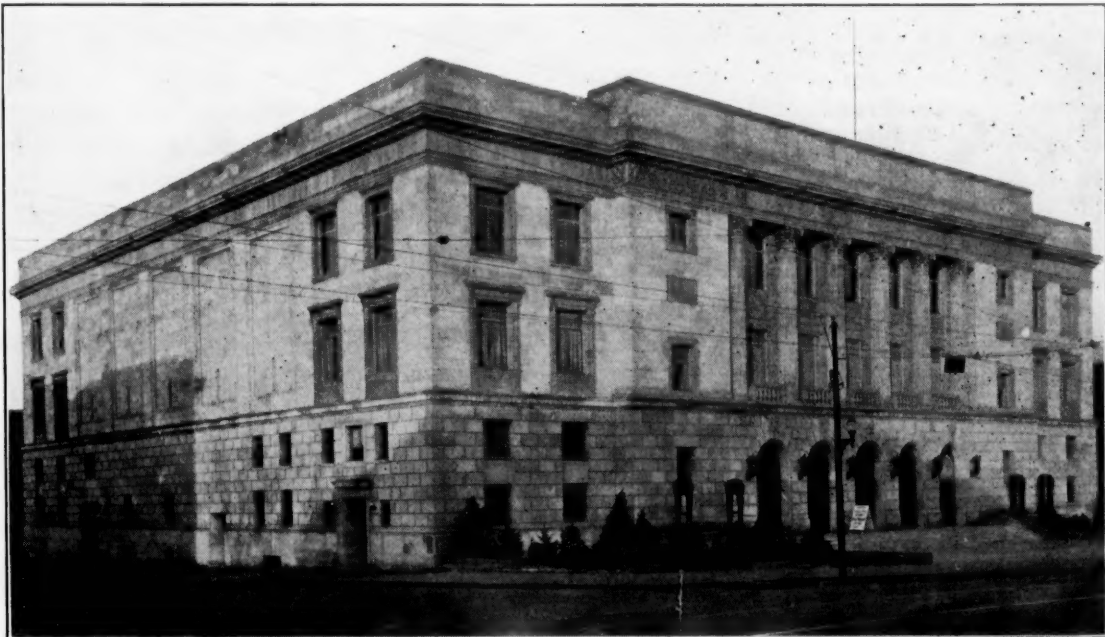
The CONFERENCE BULLETIN

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK

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OCTOBER, 1933

Number 1



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**THE CONFERENCE BULLETIN
OF THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF SOCIAL WORK**

82 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio

President: William Hodson, New York City.
Treasurer: Charles C. Stillman, Columbus.
General Secretary and Editor of the Bulletin,
Howard R. Knight, Columbus, Ohio

OCTOBER, 1933

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1933-1934**

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New York City

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Term Expiring 1936:—Anita Eldridge, San Francisco, California; William J. Ellis, Trenton, New Jersey; William Hodson, New York City; Katharine F. Lenroot, Washington, D. C.; Harry L. Lurie, New York City.

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Officers for 1934-1935

According to constitutional regulations the list of nominees for officers and members of the Executive Committee of the National Conference for election in 1934 is printed herewith:

President: Katharine F. Lenroot, Washington, D. C.

First Vice-President: The Very Reverend Monsignor Robert F. Keegan, New York City.

Second Vice-President: Helen Hall, New York City.

Third Vice-President: C. Whit Pfeiffer, Kansas City, Missouri.

Executive Committee

Mary Irene Atkinson, Columbus, Ohio.

Stanley P. Davies, New York City.

Samuel A. Goldsmith, Chicago, Illinois.

John F. Hall, Seattle, Washington.

Mrs. Blanche L. LaDu, St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Reverend Daniel N. McLachlan, Toronto, Canada.

Kate McMahon, Boston, Massachusetts.

Roberta Morgan, Birmingham, Alabama.

John Slawson, New York City.

Forrester B. Washington, Atlanta, Georgia.

Under the Constitution nominations by petition may be filed in the Conference office up until January 1. The official ballot will be mailed at least sixty days prior to the annual meeting to all members of the Conference of record who are entitled to vote or may become entitled to vote at the time of the annual meeting by the payment of the membership fee.

New Membership List

Due to the depression, which has had to take the blame for so many things, the annual membership list of the Conference was not published this past year. The new list will be published as a part of the January issue of the Bulletin and will list the membership of the Conference as of December 31. We have had many requests for this list and feel that there is a real need for it. Incidentally, if there are any former members of the Conference who wish to be included, now is a good time to send in your membership fee to the Conference office. Memberships received now will cover the privileges of the next annual meeting at Kansas City.

A Statement from the President

The Program Committee has visualized a program at Kansas City which will have, so far as it is possible to achieve them, the qualities of *unity*, *mass* and *coherence*. These were the characteristics of good English composition as described in the text books on the subject when some of us were younger. They seem to afford a pretty good basis for conference discussion. If an individual paper becomes significant when its thought is clear and its presentation well proportioned, it follows that a series of papers will have greater value if they are centered about matters of common interest, with emphasis on the things of greatest concern to social workers and so presented as to suggest the essential unity and interdependence of all social work. The trend of thinking in the Conference has been clearly in the direction of simplification and reduction of meetings as evidenced by the many joint meetings of divisions during the past few years. In normal times we can emphasize our diversities without too great loss of unity but in a period of great emergency, when things change so fast that you have to run as hard as you can to avoid going backward, it is increasingly difficult to discriminate between the essential and the unimportant. So many things clamor for attention that it is hard to concentrate upon those which really do matter or about which something effective can be done. Above all when, under pressure of the times, there is so much emphasis on *doing* and so little time for *thinking*, the Conference should provide opportunity for consistent thought and unhurried deliberation.

Now the Program Committee members are realists and they know that it is one thing to sketch a program on paper and quite another to carry it out as planned. Nevertheless a plan is the starting point and your Committee has one. The usual division meetings at eleven o'clock will be carried on exactly as before. Instead of the regular division meetings at the nine o'clock hour throughout the week, the Conference will have a choice of three meetings, one on work with individuals, a second devoted to group work and a third to community organization. On Monday and Tuesday these meetings will all have one central theme, namely, unemployment relief. The Monday discussion as tentatively planned will

center on the Federal Unemployment Relief Administration with one paper prepared and printed in advance which will present a description and critical analysis of policies and procedures under F. E. R. A. In Section A (work with individuals) the subject will be case work standards of relief with consideration of a national minimum standard of relief giving, trained personnel, health and morale and food distribution. Section B (group work) will have to do with care and service of persons outside the home, such as children, the older group in the conservation camps, medical care for the unemployed, and plans for transients. Section C (community organization) will discuss the relative responsibility for financing relief as between local, state, and federal government and the trends in Federal supervision and control and their effects upon local and state initiative.

On Tuesday the general theme is State and Local Programs of Unemployment Relief. Section A will consider the factors making for adequacy of relief, Section B will explore the problems and difficulties of work relief, and Section C will hear a critical analysis of a state, a city, and a rural relief program. Wednesday's general theme will be some current problems growing out of or accentuated by the depression, such as the care of special groups like the negro, the foreign born, and the unattached woman; the use of the new leisure; the trends in public and private social work and the relative responsibility as between them for the future and the place of the volunteer in social work. Friday and Saturday will be devoted to the Contribution of Social Work to Social Justice and Planning for Social Security through Social Control.

All of the foregoing is purely tentative and illustrative and as the time tables say "subject to change without notice". You will receive more detailed and authoritative information in the next bulletin of which this summary is merely advance notice. Whether such a plan can be carried out depends on a number of things but primarily on whether the right speakers can be found to accept the various assignments. For these nine o'clock meetings the Program Committee has taken full responsibility but will work in close cooperation with the Division Chairmen and the Associate Groups.

The evening sessions are likewise tentatively planned for and they will include such subjects as the place of the social worker in the new order, an evaluation of the N.R.A., taxation, population trends, and a national program of welfare and health.

At the last meeting of the Conference your Program Committee was given authority to reorganize the program in such ways as might seem desirable in the light of the changing times, and to suggest to the Kansas City meeting a permanent plan of reorganization if that was indicated. We will experiment at Kansas City with a limited revision and the experiment will be helpful in arriving at conclusions of a more permanent nature. Meanwhile your comments and suggestions are invited.

WILLIAM HODSON.

President.

The New Proceedings

We are happy to announce that Volume 60 (Detroit meeting) of the Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work will be published on November 24. Every effort has been made to speed the publication of this volume this year in order to get the material into the hands of the social workers over the country. The new volume contains approximately forty pages more material than was published a year ago. One of the high officials of the University of Chicago Press recently told us that the Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work was the best volume of its kind published in America both from the point of view of content and of appearance and makeup. For many years it has been known as the cornerstone of the social worker's professional library. The volume is sent to all members of the Conference whose membership fee is \$5.00 per year or more. Members whose fee has been \$3.00 but who wish the volume of the Proceedings may secure it by sending an additional check for \$2.00 to the Conference office at once. The regular retail price of the volume is \$3.00. Incidentally, we have been advised that it is altogether too much book to sell at such a low price but we are keeping the price where it is and giving our members the benefit.

The Pugsley Award

More than a year ago Mr. Chester D. Pugsley of Peekskill, New York, offered an award of \$250 to "the person or persons professionally employed in social work who in the judgment of the Editorial Committee has presented at the annual meeting of the National Conference of Social Work the paper or papers adjudged to have made the most important contribution to the subject matter of social work." The Editorial Committee had great difficulty in making this award because of the number of really excellent papers contributing to the subject matter of social work presented at the Detroit meeting. The award was divided between Miss Antoinette Cannon of the New York School of Social Work for her paper on "Recent Changes in the Philosophy of Social Workers" and Miss Neva R. Deardorff of the Welfare Council of New York City for her paper on "Next Steps in Job Analyses." In making the award the Editorial Committee issued the following statement: "The designation of two papers does not mean that the Committee was unable to decide which was better. These outstanding contributions emerged from the group selected as most significant, not as competitors but as so different that comparison was unfruitful. They seem to the Committee to answer the classic question 'Is Social Work an Art or a Science?' Miss Cannon in 'Recent Changes in the Philosophy of Social Workers' gives us a philosophy of social work revealing an understanding of human nature so penetrating as to be distinctly scientific. Dr. Deardorff writing, with the skill of an artist on 'Next Steps in Job Analyses' makes a scientific study of social work objectives and progress, creative and challenging. The Committee believes each paper is inspiring and enduring."

The Conference congratulates these two members not only for receiving the award but for the fine contributions which they have made.

Mr. Pugsley has graciously renewed the award for another year.

A New Cumulative Index, Volumes 1 to 60, Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work

For more than three years Mrs. Bertha Freeman Hooper who for twenty years was the Assistant Editor of the Proceedings worked carefully and faithfully on the compilation of a new cumulative index to the first sixty volumes of the Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work. Such an index is greatly needed, the last one having been published in 1906. It will place at the disposal of any person references to the papers on any particular subject that have been presented in the volumes of the Proceedings. The history, changing trends, and methodology of social work can be referred to easily. The Proceedings are generally recognized as the best single reference source on the growth and development of social work. But without this index an immense amount of work has been involved in finding material. With the new index one can easily turn to the various volumes and pages where the particular subject desired is discussed.

It is a matter of great regret that Mrs. Hooper could not live to complete this work. The volume will be published over her authorship as she had completed the work on the first fifty-nine volumes. Arrangements have been made to include the sixtieth volume, and the new index will be available early in the spring. Prices and complete details will be announced in the next issue of the Conference Bulletin. In advance of publication there will be a special low price for Conference members. Watch for further details in the next issue of the Bulletin or notices sent to members from the publishers.

The Committee on the American Indian

For the past four years the special committee of the Conference on the American Indian has been holding meetings each year for the discussion of social work problems connected with the American Indian. The Committee applied for continuation for another period of two years. In view of the work being done by the federal government and the social work interests involved, the Executive Committee of the Conference was glad to comply with this request. The President has appointed the following persons as the Committee on the American Indian to conduct two meetings each year for the next two years at the time of the National Conference of Social Work:

Mary Louise Mark, Columbus, Ohio, Chairman
Mrs. Gertrude Bonnin, Washington, D. C.
R. T. Bonnin, Washington, D. C.
Alida Bowler, Washington, D. C.
Mark L. Burns, Cass Lake, Minnesota
Mrs. Elizabeth Bender Cloud, Lawrence, Kansas.
Henry Roe Cloud, Lawrence, Kansas
Wade Crawford, Klamath, Oregon
Mrs. Wade Crawford, Klamath, Oregon
Edith M. Dabb, New York City
Tom Dodge, Chairman of the Navajo Council
Ben Dwight, Durant, Oklahoma
Allan G. Harper, Washington, D. C.
Monsignor William Hughes, Washington, D. C.
Oliver LaFarge, New York City
Robert T. Landsdale, Washington, D. C.
Tony Luhan, Taos Pueblo, New Mexico
Lewis Meriam, Washington, D. C.
Margaret Reeves, Santa Fe, New Mexico
W. Carson Ryan, Washington, D. C.
M. K. Sniffen, Philadelphia
Barton I. Staples, Coolidge, New Mexico.

WANTED

A Copy of the 1911 Proceedings

A former President of the Conference is very anxious to secure a copy of the 1911 volume of the Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work in order to complete his file. Unfortunately the office can not supply this. If any member of the Conference has an extra copy which they will be glad to send on for this purpose please have it directed to the Conference office and it will be forwarded.

The Third International Conference of Social Work

Plans are under way for the Third International Conference of Social Work which probably will be held in England in 1936. In carrying out its responsibilities toward the next International Conference of Social Work, the Executive Committee of the Conference at its last meeting authorized the President to appoint a committee on the Third International Conference of Social Work, the responsibilities of which were determined by action of the Conference at its meeting in Boston. Further details regarding the next International Conference will be published as they are available.

A Statement from the Treasurer

The Treasurer's job has been a necessary but discouraging task these days. The Treasurer of the National Conference is no exception. With much work to be done and a diminishing income it has been a real responsibility to keep the financial affairs of the Conference on an even balance. The formal report for the full fiscal year will be made in January. This is in the nature of a report of progress.

You will remember that more than two years ago the Executive Committee voted to change the fiscal year of the Conference so as to permit better budgetary practice. The new fiscal period enables the office to so keep its records as to provide real comparable figures as to income and expenditures from year to year. When this move was made we realized that it would be necessary to throw some of our expenditures forward so as to establish a fiscal year that would include all of the income and expenditures of that time. This applied particularly to the expenses incident to the printing of the Proceedings of the Conference which for many years were paid for during the late winter and early spring months of the calendar year instead of prior to December 31 of the year in which the meeting was held. It is needless to say that the current depression complicated the task considerably.

We entered the fiscal year January 1, 1932 with a bookkeeping deficit of approximately \$7000.00. The two chief items in this amount were the cost of the 1931 Proceedings and the November 1931 issue of the quarterly Bulletin both of which in previous years had not been paid for until after January 1. During 1932 despite the depression real progress was made and we entered the fiscal year of 1933 with a bookkeeping deficit of approximately \$4000 representing the cost of the 1932 Proceedings.

Our object is now in sight. Through rigid economy in the office and the loyalty of our members the Conference will probably close the fiscal year December 31, 1933 with all bills paid. There is however one serious "if." This can be done only *if* members of the Conference renew their membership for this year. We have faith to believe that they will. On November 1 we were carrying as members of the Conference 1171 persons and agencies who for one reason or another were from one to six month overdue in the renewal of their memberships. This represents a potential income of \$5777.00. A considerable proportion approximately 70% of these must be renewed if we are to come through the year with all bills paid and a clean slate for 1934. The staff and the office have done their part. Most of the members have done theirs. My appeal now is to the persons who for various reasons have not renewed as yet this year and to former members who may have dropped out for a year or two under the pressure of circumstances but who might come back to the Conference family at this time.

After the experience at Detroit last June no one can reasonably deny the real usefulness of the Conference to social work and the special need of its program in times like these. We do need to get together, pool our ideas and experiences in order that all of us may do better social work. This is only possible as the members of the Conference keep their memberships continuous and as other social workers or persons interested in social work become members. We can all share the benefits. Let's also share the responsibility.

Sincerely yours,

C. C. STILLMAN, Treasurer.

Conference Membership

Membership in the National Conference of Social Work is the privilege of any social worker or person interested in social work who cares to become a member. It identifies that person as one who is really interested in the development of better social work methods, who desires to understand the problems facing social work, and to help social work be of greater usefulness in our communities. It aligns the person with the leadership of social work who really care about the contribution which we together can make toward better community life.

Many of us continue our membership year by year as a matter of professional pride and responsibility, others join the Conference in the year when they can attend the annual meeting, but let their membership lapse in other years possibly forgetting that the continual membership is what makes the Conference possible year by year. It has been a matter of great gratification during the past two years that so many of our members have stood by during these difficult times. Would it not be possible however to bring the advantages of membership to the attention of some who are not now members but have come into the field of social work during the past few years. Here is a responsibility for the older members to assume. The strength of the Conference lies in its representation through membership of all persons and agencies interested in the common welfare. There are real advantages in membership. Why not suggest membership to some member of your staff or board or to some other social worker in your community who should be a member but perhaps has not had it brought to his attention?

The Past Presidents of the Conference

Mr. William Hodson is the sixty-first President of the National Conference of Social Work. One of our members recently requested a complete list of all the past presidents and the year in which they served. Thinking that maybe other members of the Conference would be glad to have this information the list is published herewith:

*John V. L. Pruyn, New York..... 1874
 *John J. Bagley, Michigan..... 1875

*Samuel J. Tilden, New York..... 1876
 *John V. L. Pruyn, New York..... 1877
 *R. M. Bishop, Ohio..... 1878
 *George S. Robinson, Illinois..... 1879
 *Roeliff Brinkerhoff, Ohio..... 1880
 *Frank B. Sanborn, Massachusetts..... 1881
 *Andrew E. Elmore, Wisconsin..... 1882
 *Frederick Howard Wines, Illinois..... 1883
 *William Pryor Letchworth, New York..... 1884
 *Philip C. Garrett, Pennsylvania..... 1885
 *William Howard Neff, Ohio..... 1886
 *H. H. Giles, Wisconsin..... 1887
 *Charles S. Hoyt, New York..... 1888
 *Rt. Rev. George D. Gillespie, Michigan..... 1889
 *A. G. Byers, Ohio..... 1890
 *Rev. Oscar C. McCulloch, Indiana..... 1891
 *Rev. Myron W. Reed, Colorado..... 1892
 *Hastings H. Hart, Minnesota..... 1893
 *Lucius C. Storrs, Michigan..... 1894
 *Robert Treat Paine, Massachusetts..... 1895
 *A. O. Wright, Wisconsin..... 1896
 Alexander Johnson, Indiana..... 1897
 *William R. Stewart, New York..... 1898
 *Charles R. Henderson, Illinois..... 1899
 *C. E. Faulkner, Minnesota..... 1900
 John M. Glenn, Maryland..... 1901
 *Timothy Nicholson, Indiana..... 1902
 *R. W. de Forest, New York..... 1903
 Jeffrey R. Brackett, Maryland..... 1904
 *Rev. Samuel G. Smith, Minnesota..... 1905
 Edward T. Devine, New York..... 1906
 Amos W. Butler, Indiana..... 1907
 *Thomas M. Mulry, New York..... 1908
 Ernest P. Bicknell, Washington, D. C. 1909
 Jane Addams, Illinois..... 1910
 Homer Folks, New York..... 1911
 Julian W. Mack, Washington, D. C. 1912
 Frank Tucker, New York..... 1913
 Graham Taylor, Illinois..... 1914
 Mrs. John M. Glenn, New York..... 1915
 Rev. Francis H. Gavisk, Indiana..... 1916
 Frederic Almy, New York..... 1917
 *Robert A. Woods, Massachusetts..... 1918
 *Julia Lathrop, Washington, D. C. 1919
 Owen R. Lovejoy, New York..... 1920
 Allen T. Burns, New York..... 1921
 Robert W. Kelso, Massachusetts..... 1922
 Homer Folks, New York..... 1923
 Grace Abbott, Washington, D. C. 1924
 William J. Norton, Michigan..... 1925
 Gertrude Vaile, Colorado..... 1926
 John A. Lapp, Illinois..... 1927
 Sherman C. Kingsley, Pennsylvania..... 1928
 Porter R. Lee, New York..... 1929
 Miriam Van Waters, California..... 1930
 Richard C. Cabot, Massachusetts..... 1931
 C. M. Bookman, Ohio..... 1932
 Frank J. Bruno, Missouri..... 1933

*Deceased

The Sixty-first

ANNUAL MEETING

National Conference of Social Work

Kansas City, Missouri

MAY 20 - 26, 1934